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Washington Merry-Go-Round

by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Despite the arrest of a material witness in the Capitol bombing, the FBI's search for fugitive revolutionaries has been largely stymied.

This admission was made behind closed doors the other day by Ervin L. Recer, supervisor of the FBI's domestic intelligence division.

Speaking at a closed symposium on domestic violence at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., Recer said the number of radicals and revolutionaries on the loose has already swelled the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list to 18.

Fugitives hiding around college campuses, he said, are "practically invisible" to the FBI. "Contact," he explained, "would entail living the type of drug-oriented, amoral system that is so common among the New Left."

Recer charged that the National Peace Action Coalition, which is sponsoring the anti-war demonstrations in Washington, is "completely socialist Workers Party and its youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance. He identified both as Trotskyist.

The other sponsor of the Washington protests, the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, "has several very prominent communists on its top board," he said.

He described the Weathermen as "fanatical revolutionaries" and identified Mark Rudd and Bernadine Dohrn as two of its leaders. The latter, he said, is educated and intelligent but "about as amoral as you can possibly find."

He said a letter had been "received but not authenticated" claiming Weathermen responsibility for the bombing of the Capitol.

Recer said the FBI had the responsibility to "assure that dissent is protected" without compromising the rights of all other citizens.

Footnote: Newsmen were barred from the symposium. However, I sent Charles Elliott of my staff to infiltrate the meeting. He is the same reporter who has been tailing J. Edgar Hoover. The FBI chief has expressed great nervousness over Elliott and has ordered him watched. Presumably to assist in this counter-surveillance, two FBI types snapped a bootleg picture of him. Other pictures of him, going through Hoover's trash, also appear in the May issue of the Washingtonian magazine. Nevertheless, Elliott had no trouble slipping into the closed-door meeting.

GENERATION OF PEACE — President Nixon is gearing the government for a "generation of peace."

He has explained to associates that he expects economic rather than military rivalry to dominate the 1970s. He believes that a nuclear stalemate will keep the great powers out of war for the next generation. The emphasis, therefore, should be on economic warfare.

In the President's view, our military foe of the 1940s, Japan, will become an economic foe in the 1970s. He has asked his new international economic adviser, Pete Peterson, to establish an "early warning system" to locate and identify foreign economic threats.

Explaining his ideas privately to Republican congressional leaders, the President pointed out that the number of steelworkers in the U.S. has dropped from 670,000 to 606,000 in the past 20 years, that annual steel production in Japan has soared from 5 million to 100 million tons during the same period.

"In 1974," the President predicted, "Japan will pass the U.S. in steel production."

He counseled, however, that "you can't build a generation of peace simply by ending a war. You have to continue to build a structure of peace."

This would take new emphasis, he said, on our economic strength. But he warned that our military strength couldn't be neglected.

"A country that becomes a swollen economic giant but a military pygmy," he said, "is a big temptation to be plucked off. So the economic and military systems will have to continue. The neo-isolationists are the ones who will invite new military involvements."

Then, with earnest emphasis, he warned the GOP leader: "The day we become No. 2 in the world, watch out!"

DRAGON LADY — Beautiful Anna Chennault, the dragon lady of the Potomac, has urged President Nixon to end discrimination against Orientals. As a Chinese-American, she complained to the President that she belonged to "the silent minority." Her people didn't clamor against discrimination but suffered in silence, she said. She charged that the government, particularly the State Department, discriminates against Orientals. Not a single citizen of Oriental ancestry has been assigned to the desks that deal with Asian problems, she told the President during a private White House visit.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR — Communist China has appointed its first ambassador to Canada since relations between the two countries were restored. He will be Huang Hua, who has specialized in American affairs and has many contacts in the United States. It looks as if he may be handling American affairs out of the back door.